

# Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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## Fallen Asleep

On Monday at 2 P. M., of this week we received the following message :

REV. A. D. GNAGEY :—

Mrs. Cassel has just died.

JACOB C. CASSEL.

To many of us this is not unexpected intelligence, yet it brings with it a sadness that touches all our hearts. Few men, if any, have been more prominently connected, in an official way, with the different departments of our church work than Brother Cassel, and very naturally our hearts, including the whole EVANGELIST family, go out in tender sympathy to him in this hour of bereavement. Many of us know by experience how sorely he must feel the loss of a dear companion, and tho Sister Cassel lingered long in patient suffering, and we have every reason to believe that to her death was a welcome visitor, yet it is the common experience of all that no protracted illness, no looking forward to death as a happy relief from suffering, can ever quite prepare us for that feeling of loneliness and that sense of loss which come to us when bereft of one who has shared with us thru the long years the joys and the sorrows, the triumphs and the defeats which are the common lot of all mankind. May the God in whom Brother Cassel has trusted in the past and who has never failed him in any one thing, now, in this hour of sore trial and deep sorrow, grant unto him sustaining grace while in faith he looks forward to the peaceful rest in paradise which awaits all them that love the Lord's appearing.

## The Golden Rule in Business

The fact that you have to rely largely on a vivid imagination for a tolerably accurate idea of its revolutionary results goes to show that there is not in the ethics of actual business any more of the Golden Rule than there ought to be. It is difficult to work out mentally so unusual a society as would be presented by the observance of this rule in all the transactions between men. Altruistic communities created by literature are called utopias, a place or state of ideal perfection. Nobody expects to see them in real life while human nature remains as it is.

The most usual and constant point of contact between men occurs in their business relations. We have comparatively little to do with each other, take comparatively little interest

in each other, in matters of education, culture, religion ; but in business we meet every day, come into mutual contact, bear each other in mind in a particularly intense way, and it is at this point that the universal adoption of the Golden Rule would work out its most radical results.

So many complex ideas enter into our business relations with each other that it is difficult to classify and analyze them. The personal element of self-aggrandizement modifies business relations to such an extent, is so dominant in every thought, that the theoretical idea of business is put in a secondary relation, while the ethical idea is almost lost sight of. Now the theoretical idea of commerce is that it is an exchange. My labor produces a certain article, a portion of which I wish to exchange for a different article produced by my neighbor. But the Golden Rule dictates that this exchange should be equal, that for instance I should neither ask nor take more for my goods than they are worth. It may happen that my neighbor's necessity forces him to sacrifice his goods, that is, to take less than their value, but if I avail myself of his misfortune, I violate the Golden Rule. Despite his willingness, under some compulsion which he can not avoid, to take less than the value of his property, I am bound, if I buy at all, to give him its full value. We know very well that this compulsion of hard necessity exists everywhere, comes into play in almost every experience, forcing the poor man to sell his labor, the farmer his farm, the merchant his goods, the herder his cattle, for less than their value, and we know furthermore that they are not protected from disastrous sacrifice and loss by any effectual or general operation of the Golden Rule.

There is also another side to the valid operation of this law of our Lord. For example, the code of the world is : Take for your property all you can get. This is not the code of the world only, but it is the code of thousands of church members. Perhaps we hear some one say that a property is worth all you can get for it. This is not true, for dire necessity may force a man to give more for a property than it is worth. Famine may force one to pay two prices for food. Debt may force him to pay two prices for money. Thousands of men in and out of the church wax rich by shrewdly availing themselves of these and like necessities pressing upon the less fortunate and less competent. In all these cases the element of force enters, and more or less force is simply more or less robbery. If we use a sufficient amount of force we get the property of our neighbor for nothing, or next to nothing.

Misfortune is a two edged sword that cuts both ways. It forces one to sell what he has at less than its value, and buy what he needs at more than its value. Now under the Golden Rule as well as under the law of equity, which is as